GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3890
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2016
Functioning of Krishi Vigyan Kendras
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) functioning in the country along with the tasks assigned and completed by them during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any mechanism for monitoring/reviewing KVKs from time to time and if so, the details thereof along with the operational status and effectiveness of the mechanism;

(c) whether any irregularities/shortcomings have been detected by the Government in the functioning of KVKs during their monitoring, if so, the details thereof along with the corrective action taken by the Government hereon;

(d) whether the Government proposes to modernise and improve KVKs to suit the present conditions and help the farmers in a better way if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether KVKs organise exchange programmes to send farmers abroad to learn new agricultural techniques, if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to strengthen KVKs?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a) There are 645 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) functioning in the country aiming at assessment and demonstration of technologies/products under different agro-ecosystems developed by the National Agricultural Research System of the country. The State-wise and location-wise details of the districts having KVKs are given at Annexure-I. The State-wise details of major tasks assigned and completed by these KVKs during the last three years and the current year are given in Annexure-II.

(b) Yes, Madam. The details of monitoring and review mechanism of KVKs include holding of Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings, Annual State and Zonal Workshops, Activity Specific Training-cum-Workshops, site visits by the Directors of Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes (ATARIs), Directorates of Extension of Agricultural Universities and ICAR Headquarters; Annual National Conference, linkage and convergence meetings /discussions and review by Quinquennial Review Team (QRT). The outcome based on monitoring and review activities undertaken during the last three years includes development and execution of improved and need based annual action plans; compilation of technology inventories, preparation of technology manuals, books, bulletins and extension literature in print and electronic form; development and organization of programmes for capacity building and technology backstopping; human resource development and knowledge empowerment; and sharing of innovative models and experiences of technology application mechanisms.

(c) As far as irregularities and shortcomings in the functioning of KVKs are concerned, it was found that functioning of KVK, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh has been affected due to dispute amongst the management of the Host Organization which is sub−judice. The KVK, Nanded, Maharashtra had some administrative issues concerning use and maintenance of KVK infrastructure, holding of scientific advisory committee meetings regularly and procedural lapses in maintenance of records for which corrective measures were suggested and the same have now been followed. Complaints have been received alleging irregularities related to ownership of land, recruitment of staff and functioning of KVK, Unnao, Uttar Pradesh. As per report of a fact finding committee, the issues raised in the complaints along with the issue of appointment of relatives were examined and the host organization of the KVK has been asked to mortgage the land on which KVK has been sanctioned, besides furnishing of Indemnity Bond. As regards to KVK at Jamui district of Bihar, there is a dispute regarding ownership of the land between the two related organizations and a committee has been constituted for investigating the issue. However, the functioning of the KVK has not been affected. Further, host institutions have been advised to fill the vacant positions of staff in KVKs.

(d) Yes, Madam. To modernise and improve the functioning of KVKs, Government has approved for creation of some additional facilities in selected KVKs including rain water harvesting; soil and water testing facilities; minimal processing facilities; carp hatcheries; integrated farming system units; and e-linkage facilities during 12th Five Year Plan. The new initiatives taken to revitalize KVKs include provision of technology information units; mini seed processing facilities; 25 KVA silent genset; micro-nutrient analysis facilities; provision of solar power panels, vKVK and KVK-Net, e-farmers; and mandating some of the KVKs to work as specialized KVKs. The details of earmarked funds and the number of KVKs selected for strengthening with such facilities are given in Annexure - III.

(e) No, Madam. There is no exchange programme organized by KVKs for deputing farmers to foreign countries. However, the KVKs

organize exposure visits of farmers within and outside state. These visits facilitate interaction of farmers with the researchers, scientists, farm innovators, entrepreneurs, etc for getting ideas about the new technology/enterprise/products and enable them for cross learning. These visits also expose farmers to the latest technologies generated by Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes. It opens new horizons of knowledge to the farmers by "Seeing is believing" process. Besides, the discussions during visits among fellow farmers help in building confidence for adoption of new technologies offered to them.

For strengthening KVKs during 12th Five Year Plan, Government has approved for enhanced manpower, infrastructure facilities and financial support for working contingency to carry-out the mandated role of frontline extension system in the country.

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